



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,861	12/29/2004	Yasuo Ishiguro	82478-9900	9295
21611 7590 04/16/2008 SNELL & WILMER LLP (OC) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626				
EXAMINER				
BADAWI, SHERIEF				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2167				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/16/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/519,861

Applicant(s)

ISHIGURO ET AL.

Examiner

SHERIEF BADAWI

Art Unit

2167

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1.5 and 13-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1.5, 13, 14 and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Amendment filed on March 12, 2008 has been received and entered. Application 10/519,861 Claims 1, 5 and 13-18 are now pending claims 2-4 and 6-12 have been cancelled.

Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/12/2008 has been entered.
3. Applicant's amendment has overcome previous claim rejections under 35 USC 102 (e).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. **Claims 1, 5, 13, 14 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft et al. (US 6,137,488) Date of Patent October 24, 2000, in view of DialogWeb.com (March, 3 2000)

As per Claim 1, Kraft discloses a patent information searching apparatus for searching a database based on a search criterion entered by a user, the patent information searching apparatus comprising:

- o a database that stores a plurality of pieces of patent information data as search target, **(See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed; as taught by Kraft);**

- o filed information as display flags that correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion, **(See Fig.4, wherein the display flag + corresponds to search criterion to be entered by the user, See Fig.7, each display flag corresponds to a search field; as taught by Kraft);**

- o each display flag indicating whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the + and – signs indicate either to display the data entry field; as taught by Kraft);**

- o further hold character string data for displaying names of categories of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft);**

- o character string data for displaying names of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft);**

- o each data-entry field being categorized in any of the categories including a classification category, a number category, a date category, a unique-name category and a text

category; (See Column.2, lines 15-22 and Column.6, lines 20-30, user selects the desired classification entry from a list of available classification entries, if the form being completed is a patent database search query, some exemplary classification entries might be: "description," "title," "inventor," "assignee," "licensee," "year," and a generic category for data not belonging in the listed classification entries; as taught by Kraft);

- o a category display unit displaying a list of the categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the categories; (See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein a patent database information search fields is disclosed, wherein category fields can be added and removed from the search using flags, wherein the fields correspond to text fields and classification fields, year name; as taught by Kraft);

- o a category receiving unit receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more categories from the list of the categories; (See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft);

- o a field list display unit displaying a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields, and not to display a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected; (See Fig.6, wherein the categories and classes selected are displayed, and categories not selected are hidden from the display; as taught by Kraft);

- o a field receiving unit receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; (See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry fields that are populated with common preprogrammed values could be selected, and Fig.6, wherein fields that are added are used for querying the database; as taught by Kraft);

o an update unit updating the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding to the data- entry fields not selected by the user; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the entry field and its flags, by that updates to the interface fields are performed; as taught by Kraft);**

o a field display unit displaying, in accordance with the field information, the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been set, and not displaying the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields are be added and removed using, the interface changes based on adding additional field templates; as taught by Kraft);**

o a data searching unit receiving the search criterion entered in the data- entry fields displayed by the field display unit, and search for data matching the received search criterion; **(See Column.8, lines 20-25, allows the user to create sophisticated search terms by indenting the appropriate field templates; as taught Kraft); and**

o a search result display unit displaying a result of the search conducted by the data searching unit; **(See Column.14, lines 20-30, which receives the completed form, identifies any patents that satisfy the criterion set forth in the field templates, and returns a listing of those patents to the user; as taught by Kraft).**

However Kraft fails to disclose a field information holding unit holding, for each of a plurality of user IDs and search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to patent.

On the other hand Dialogweb.com discloses a field information holding unit holding, for each of a plurality of user IDs and search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to patent,

(See page.1, wherein an input filed to hold user IDs for the purpose of searches relating to intellectual property; as taught by DialogWeb.com).

And receiving unit receiving a user ID of the user; (See page.1, wherein an input filed to hold user IDs for the purpose of searches relating to intellectual property; as taught by DialogWeb.com).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the DialogWeb.com teachings to Kraft system. One skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have found it motivating a user based search system to provide a customized and secure searching system. In addition, the references (DialogWeb.com and Kraft) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, Patent searching. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

As per Claim 5, the rejection of claim 1 is hereby incorporated by reference; the combination of Kraft and DialogWeb.com further discloses the category display unit displays the list of the categories on a screen where the data-entry fields are displayed by the field display unit, (See **Fig.4, wherein plurality of categories are displayed on the screen; as taught by Kraft**) the field list display unit displays the list of the data-entry fields on the screen where the data-entry fields are displayed by the field display unit, (See **Fig.5 and Fig.6, wherein plurality of entry fields such as 308 and 500 are displayed; as taught by Kraft**) and the field display unit updates the displayed data-entry fields immediately when the field receiving unit receives the selection of the data-entry fields; (See **Column.7, lines 1-16, wherein additional entry field is displayed after a selection to do so; as taught by Kraft**).

As per **Claim 13**, the combination of Kraft and Dialog Web discloses a patent information searching method for searching, using a patent information searching apparatus, for a desired piece of patent information data based on a search criterion entered by a user, the patent information searching apparatus comprising:

- o a database that stores a plurality of pieces of patent information data as search targets; (See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed; as taught by Kraft); and

- o a field information holding unit holding, for each of user Ids and search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to a patent, (See page.1, wherein an input filed to hold user Ids for the purpose of searches relating to intellectual property; as taught by DialogWeb.com);

- o field information as display flags that correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion, (See Fig.4, wherein the display flag + corresponds to search criterion to be entered by the user; as taught by Kraft); and

- o that each indicates whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields, (See Fig. 5, wherein the + and – signs indicate either to display the data entry field; as taught by Kraft); and

- o further hold character string data for displaying names of categories of the data-entry fields, (See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft); and

- o character string data for displaying names of the data-entry fields, (See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft);

- o each data-entry field being categorized in any of the categories including a classification category, a number category, a date category, a unique-name category and a text category, and (See Column.2, lines 15-22 and Column.6, lines 20-30, user selects the desired classification entry from a list of available classification entries, if the form being completed is a patent database search query, some exemplary classification entries might be: "description," "title," "inventor," "assignee," "licensee," "year," and a generic category for data not belonging in the listed classification entries; as taught by Kraft);

- o the patent information searching method comprising: a category, display step of displaying a list of the categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the categories; (See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed, wherein category fields can be added and removed from the search using flags, wherein the fields correspond to text fields and classification fields, year name; as taught by Kraft);

- o a category receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more categories from the list of the categories; (See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft), and receiving a user

ID of the user **(See page.1, wherein an input filed to hold user Ids for the purpose of searches relating to intellectual property; as taught by DialogWeb.com);**

o a field list display step of displaying a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields, and not to displaying a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected; **(See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input data; as taught by Kraft);**

o a field receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; **(See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry fields that are populated with common preprogrammed values could be selected; as taught by Kraft);**

o an update step of updating the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding data- entry fields not selected by the user; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft);**

o a field display step of, in accordance with the field information, displaying the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been set, and not displaying the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields and be added and removed using, the interface3 changes based on adding additional field templates; as taught by Kraft);**

Art Unit: 2167

- o a data searching step of receiving the search criterion entered in the data-entry fields displayed in the field display step, and searching for data matching the received search criterion; **(See Column.8, lines 20-25, allows the user to create sophisticated search terms by indenting the appropriate field templates; as taught Kraft); and**
- o a search result display step of displaying a result of the search conducted in the data searching step; **(See Column.14, lines 20-30, which receives the completed form, identifies any patents that satisfy the criterion set forth in the field templates, and returns a listing of those patents to the user; as taught by Kraft).**

Kraft fails to disclose the updating and displaying corresponding to the user ID.

However DialogWeb.com discloses a user ID and receiving information corresponding to the user ID; **(See DialogWeb.com page.2, wherein user can search, display and save results based on user ID; as taught by DialogWeb.com).**

As per Claim 14, the combination of Kraft and Dialog Web discloses a patent information searching Program for searching, using a patent information searching apparatus, for a desired piece of patent information data based on a search criterion entered by a user, the patent information searching apparatus comprising:

- o a database that stores a plurality of pieces of patent information data as search targets; **(See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed; as taught by Kraft); and**

o a field information holding unit holding, for each of user Ids and search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to a patent, (See page.1, wherein an input filed to hold user Ids for the purpose of searches relating to intellectual property; as taught by DialogWeb.com);

o field information as display flags that correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion, (See Fig.4, wherein the display flag + corresponds to search criterion to be entered by the user; as taught by Kraft); and

o that each indicates whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields, (See Fig. 5, wherein the + and – signs indicate either to display the data entry field; as taught by Kraft);

o and further hold character string data for displaying names of categories of the data-entry fields, (See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft); and

o character string data for displaying names of the data-entry fields, (See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft);

o each data-entry field being categorized in any of the categories including a classification category, a number category, a date category, a unique-name category and a text category, and (See Column.2, lines 15-22 and Column.6, lines 20-30, user selects the desired classification entry from a list of available classification entries, if the form being completed

is a patent database search query, some exemplary classification entries might be:

"description," "title," "inventor," "assignee," "licensee," "year," and a generic category for data not belonging in the listed classification entries; as taught by Kraft);

- o the patent information searching program causes the patent information searching apparatus to execute: a category, display step of displaying a list of the categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the categories; (See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed, wherein category fields can be added and removed from the search using flags, wherein the fields correspond to text fields and classification fields, year name; as taught by Kraft);

- o a category receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more categories from the list of the categories; (See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft), and receiving a user ID of the user (See page.1, wherein an input filed to hold user Ids for the purpose of searches relating to intellectual property; as taught by DialogWeb.com);

- o a field list display step of displaying a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields, and not to displaying a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected; (See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input data; as taught by Kraft);

- o a field receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; (See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry fields that are populated with common preprogrammed values could be selected; as taught by Kraft);

- o an update step of updating the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding data-entry fields not selected by the user; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft);**
- o a field display step of, in accordance with the field information, displaying the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been set, and not displaying the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields and be added and removed using, the interface3 changes based on adding additional field templates; as taught by Kraft);**
- o a data searching step of receiving the search criterion entered in the data-entry fields displayed in the field display step, and searching for data matching the received search criterion; **(See Column.8, lines 20-25, allows the user to create sophisticated search terms by indenting the appropriate field templates; as taught Kraft); and**
- o a search result display step of displaying a result of the search conducted in the data searching step; **(See Column.14, lines 20-30, which receives the completed form, identifies any patents that satisfy the criterion set forth in the field templates, and returns a listing of those patents to the user; as taught by Kraft).**

Kraft fails to disclose the updating and displaying corresponding to the user ID.

However DialogWeb.com discloses a user ID and receiving information corresponding to the user ID; **(See DialogWeb.com page.2, wherein user can search, display and save results based on user ID; as taught by DialogWeb.com)**

As per **Claim 16**, the rejection of claim 1 is hereby incorporated by reference; the combination of Kraft and DialogWeb.com further discloses the field receiving unit receives from the user, a selection two or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; (See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is displayed where a user can select from, See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input data, wherein the in the list two or more selection can be made, wherein the entry filed could be a checkable list, See Column.6, lines 10-25; as taught Kraft) the update unit updates the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the two or more selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding to data-entry fields not selected by the user, **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft)** and the field display unit, in accordance with the field information, simultaneously displays the two or more data-entry fields for which the display flags have been set, and not display the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can be added wherein the display adds the field with the flag indication of addition and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft).**

6. **Claim 17**, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft et al. (US 6,137,488) Date of Patent October 24, 2000, in view of DialogWeb.com (March, 3 2000), further in view of Dasan et al. (US 5,761,662) Date of Patent June 2, 1998

As per Claim 17, the rejection of claim 1 is hereby incorporated by reference, the combination of Kraft and DialogWeb.com fails to disclose a user ID input unit to accept a user ID wherein the display flags are associated with the user ID such that the display flags are preserved when the user ID is accepted at a subsequent period of time.

On the other hand Dasan teaches a user ID input unit to accept a user ID wherein the display flags are associated with the user ID such that the display flags are preserved when the user ID is accepted at a subsequent period of time; **(retrieving information based on a user-defined profile (e.g. a personalized newspaper). A user-controlled client establishes communication with a stateless server, the server presenting a list of options to the client (e.g. via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) exchanges) between the server and the client. The client provides an identification of the user-defined profile. The server engages a first application program (e.g. via a Common Gateway Interface (CGI)), the first application program retrieving the user-defined profile wherein the user-defined profile identifies information which is of interest to the user; Paragraph.10, lines 1-10; as taught by Dasan).**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Dasan teachings to the combined Kraft and DialogWeb.com system. One skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have found it motivating to use personalized information retrieval system of Dasan into the full-text search and query system of Kraft for the purpose retrieving data from a server based upon a defined and stored user profile of desired information; **[Paragraph.28, lines 1-3] as taught by Dasan.** In addition, the references (Dasan, DialogWeb.com and Kraft) teach features that are directed to analogous art and

they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, querying databases. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

7. **Claim 18**, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft et al. (US 6,137,488) Date of Patent October 24, 2000, in view of DialogWeb.com (March, 3 2000), in view of Dasan et al. (US 5,761,662) Date of Patent June 2, 1998, and further in view of Kasahara et al. (US 5,123,088) Date of Patent June 16, 1992.

As per **Claim 18**, the rejection of claim 17 is hereby incorporated by reference, the combination of Kraft and DialogWeb.com further discloses wherein the display flags have been set, and the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein entry field display flags are used to add or remove fields; as taught by Kraft)**. However the combination of Kraft and DialogWeb.com is silent with respect to having the display flags with associated values 1 and 0.

On the other hand Kasahara teaches to having display flags with associated values 1 and 0; **(See Column.7, lines 56-60; wherein display flags are hold the values 1 and 0; as taught by Kasahara)**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Kasahara teachings to the combined Dasan, Kraft and DialogWeb.com system. One skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have found it motivating use different display flag values to easily distinguish between visible and invisible entry fields. In addition, the references (Kasahara, Dasan, DialogWeb.com and Kraft) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, display

or view properties. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reasons for the Indication of Allowance

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 15 in the instant application is because the prior arts of record do not teach or suggest "data-entry fields categorized in the classification category are Classification by four industrial property laws, IPC, FI, and F Term, the data-entry fields categorized in the number category are Application Number, Publication Number, International Application Number, International Publication Number, Unexamined Patent Publication Number, Examined Patent Publication Number, Registration Number, Priority Number, Related Application Number, and Number of Appeal, the data-entry fields categorized in the date category are Date of Filing, Date of Publication of Application, Date of Filing of International Application, Date of Publication of International Application, Date of Publication of

Unexamined Patent Application, Date of Domestic Re-Publication of PCT International Application, Date of Publication of Official Gazette, Date of Publication of Examined Patent Application, Date of Registration, Date of Publication for Registered Patent, and Date of Filing of Application Claiming Priority, the data-entry fields categorized in the unique-name category are Applicant/Right-Holder, Inventor, Representative, Examiner, and Designated Country, and the data-entry fields categorized in the text category are Title of the Invention, Detailed Description of the Invention, Claim(s), Field of the Invention, Description of the Prior Art, Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention, Means for Solving the Problem(s), Embodiment of the Invention, Effect of the Invention, Brief Description of the Drawings, Description of Characters, Abstract, Abstract + Claim(s), and Full Text.” The prior art of record including the disclosures above neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above recited combination.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to “user IDs” have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, furthermore claim 15 is allowable therefore the applicants arguments regarding claim 15 are moot.

I) Applicant argues that the combination of Kraft fails to disclose “the use of a table at all”.

Examiner respectfully disagrees, claim 1 limitations do not disclose any table.

II) Applicant argues that the combination of Kraft fails to disclose “the display flags of the present invention because they do not correspond one-to-one to data-entry

fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion with each display flag indicating whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields”.

Examiner respectfully disagrees, as described in craft (See Fig. 6) each of the entry fields such as fields 508 and 500 are associated with their own display flags (310) when clicked on the field is added to the search screen and when the flag (522) is clicked on the search fields corresponding to those flags disappear.

III) Applicant argues that the combination of Kraft fails to disclose “the pull down classification table 400 as a whole cannot be considered a data entry field because the in the present invention, the data-entry fields are “to be used by the user for entering the search criterion.” The user does not enter data into the pull down classification table 400 as a whole.”

Examiner respectfully disagrees, as described in craft (See Fig. 6) each of the of the pull down is associated with data entry fields that can be text input field see (column.6, lines 7-15 as taught by Kraft), such fields the user inputs search text into for search purposes.

IV) Applicant argues that the combination of Kraft fails to disclose “a selection of two or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list”

Examiner respectfully disagrees, as described in craft (See Fig. 7), wherein the user can use multiple data entry fields such as fields (420, 500 and 706) and enter multiple search values to be used in conducting the search such as q-sort used in field 500 and merge sort in field 710.

V) Applicant argues that the combination of the combination of Kraft, Dasan and Kasahara fails to disclose “wherein the display flags have a value of 1 if the display flags have been set, and the display flags have a value of 0 if the display flags have been cleared”

Examiner respectfully disagrees, claim 18 has been rejected as a combination of Kraft, Dasan and Kasahara, wherein the display flags associated with having an entry field being displayed or being hidden has been disclosed by Kraft (See Column.6, lines 7-48 as taught by Kraft), furthermore the process of associating values 1 and 0 with a display flags has been disclosed in Kasahara (See Column.7, lines 56-65; as taught by Kasahara)

Conclusion

11. The examiner requests, in response to this Office action, support be shown for language added to any original claims on amendment and any new claims. That is, indicate support for newly added claim language by specifically pointing to page(s) and line no(s) in the specification and/or drawing figure(s). This will assist the examiner in prosecuting the application.

12. When responding to this office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present, in view of the state of the art disclosed

by the references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections See 37 CFR 1.111(c).

Point of Contact

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHERIEF BADAWI whose telephone number is (571)272-9782. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30-5:00, Alt Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John R. Cottingham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

Sherief Badawi
Art Unit 2167
4-11-2008

VVB